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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/646,653 | 08/21/2003 | Susumu Kusakabe | 112857-784 | 9927 |
| 29175 | 7590 | 09/13/2007 | EXAMINER | |
| BELL, BOYD & LLOYD, LLP P. O. BOX 1135 CHICAGO, IL 60690 | | | NGUYEN, THAN VINH | |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| 2187 | | | | |
| MAIL DATE | | DELIVERY MODE | | |
| 09/13/2007 | | PAPER | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| | 10/646,653 | KUSAKABE ET AL. | |
| Examiner | Art Unit | | |
| Than Nguyen | 2187 | | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 July 2007.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 16-31 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 16-31 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/13/07.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/13/07 has been entered.
2. This is a response to the amendment, filed 7/13/07.
3. Claims 16-31 are pending. Claims 28-31 are newly added.
4. The IDS, filed 7/13/07, has been considered.

Response to Amendment & Arguments

5. Applicant has amended the claims to include additional limitations not previously considered. The amended claims are addressed below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
7. Claim 16,20,25,26 recites the limitation "the first area size". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
8. Claims 16,20,25,26 recite the limitation "the second area size". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
9. Claims 16,20,25,26 recite the limitation "the size of the memory section". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

10. Claims 17-19,21-24,27-31 are also rejected for incorporating the error or the parent claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

11. Claims 16-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe et al (US 4,734,568).

As to claim 16,20,25,26:

12. Watanabe teaches a composite IC card. Watanabe teaches the claimed information apparatus/method for:

receiving a command from a predetermined user (Fig. 12, command input 103);
processing the command by utilizing a memory section that allocates to a first area and second area;

the first area including plurality of area definition blocks each of which stores information relating to a predetermined area in the second area which is used by provider apparatuses (index area; one for each memory area; Fig. 4; 2/25-30);
Each of the memory areas has a specific size (Figure 4)) and access right data associated with the area definition blocks which defines access rights to the predetermined area, wherein the area definition blocks define the information and the access rights data so that the predetermined area of the second area associated with the provider apparatus can be accessed by another provider apparatus (index area contain access rights information for each memory area; Fig. 4-6; 3/30-52), the second area size being based on subtracting the first area size of the memory

section and the first area size being based on the number of provider apparatuses (Fig. 4. For example, if only 1 application is to be used, then only 1 index area is created having a certain size (#1 Index Area). The size of the second area (data/user memory area, #1 Memory Area) is determined by the total data memory area less the memory area taken by the index area; Fig. 4. If multiple applications are used then each would have an index area and each would have a data memory area; Fig. 4), the second area including a plurality of user blocks managed in block unit having a predetermined size, wherein each of the plurality of area definition blocks has the predetermined size (user memory areas 1-Y has certain size; Fig. 4; 3/20-45; index area also has certain size; Fig. 4); wherein processing the command includes accessing the area definition blocks associated with the provider apparatus (using index areas to access requested storage areas; 3/49-66); transmitting results of said processing (response read/write output; Fig. 12).

As to claim 17:

13. Watanabe teaches an unused area is assigned to the first area (Fig. 3).

As to claim 18,21,23,27:

14. Watanabe teaches processing the command by referring two or more data blocks of different access rights (a security level can have multiple access areas; 1/60-65; 3/67-4/5).

As to claim 19,22:

Watanabe teaches the second area includes a common area accessible by two or more users (areas in which multiple security levels can access; 4/1-30).

As to claim 24:

15. Watanabe teaches access right data is either read/write data OR read-only data (4/35-40).

Allowable Subject Matter

16. Claims 28-31 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

17. As to claims 28-31, the prior art does not further teach the second area includes a purse block, the purse block being reserved for storing data that is subtracted and added and has a plurality of access levels associated with the plurality of provider apparatuses.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Than Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4198. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-3pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Sparks can be reached on (571) 272-4201. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Than Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2187